

Isaac Rojas from FoE Costa Rica at the People's Summit on Climate Change in Cochabamba, Bolivia, April 2010.



annual
report 2010

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**Friends of
the Earth
International**

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friends of the earth international is an international federation of diverse grassroots-based environmental organisations with over 2 million members and supporters around the world. We challenge the current model of economic and corporate globalisation, and promote solutions that will help to create environmentally sustainable and socially just societies.

our vision is of a peaceful and sustainable world based on societies living in harmony with nature. We envision a society of interdependent people living in dignity, wholeness and fulfilment in which equity and human and peoples' rights are realised.

This will be a society built upon peoples' sovereignty and participation. It will be founded on social, economic, gender and environmental justice and free from all forms of domination and exploitation, such as neoliberalism, corporate globalisation, neo-colonialism and militarism.

We believe that our children's future will be better because of what we do.

friends of the earth has groups in: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belgium (Flanders), Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Curaçao (Antilles), Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, England/Wales/Northern Ireland, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada (West Indies), Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia (former Yugoslav Republic of), Malaysia, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Scotland, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Timor Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United States, and Uruguay.

(Please contact the FoEI Secretariat or check www.foei.org for FoE groups' contact info)

our complete financial report 2010 is available for download here:

www.foei.org/en/resources/publications/annual-report/annual-report-2010/financial-report-2010

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the Earth
International**

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hello friends around the world!

nnimmo bassey | friends of the earth international chair, nigeria

2010 had many high points for our global federation. In addition to the inspiring campaign victories outlined in the following pages, these included: in April, our presence at the World People's Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth in Cochabamba, Bolivia and the subsequent invitation by Bolivian President Evo Morales to present the outcomes to the UN Secretary General in New York. In July, a joint meeting between FoEI, the World March of Women and La Via Campesina in Mozambique that built alliances between women from Asia and Africa with a focus on three key issues: food sovereignty, climate change and violence against women. In September, the Sustainability School for activists and community members in Brazil, where 34 young people from 14 Latin American countries were trained and inspired. In October, our Biennial General Meeting in Malaysia, which was preceded by a fascinating dialogue with Indigenous Peoples from around the world during the "Ecological Equity: Sharing the Stories, Reclaiming our Rights" conference.

In 2010, Friends of the Earth also facilitated ongoing efforts to strengthen member group collaboration in order to increase international impact and efficiency. We also continued to develop the processes and structures that ensure our multi-cultural federation communicates well internally, our member groups learn from each other, and our strategies and collective actions are taken forward within the framework of our international programmes and campaigns.



Community campaigners at the Colombian Forum in Defense of the Páramo. In 2010 the Municipal Council and Mayor of Cerrito approved the initiative to declare part of the Páramo El Almorzadero as a mining free area.

Nnimmo Bassey, FoEI Chair, addresses the media at the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit in 2009.



During the course of the year we agreed our first strategic action plan and set of strategic objectives. This strategic framework will guide all of Friends of the Earth International (FoEI)'s shared activities during the coming years. It will be used to prioritise the work of our international programmes and to guide other activities at the federation level, including communications, fundraising and capacity building. Four cross-programme projects will also be taken forward during the next two years on:

- land grabbing, land rights and unsustainable consumption
- climate and biodiversity finance
- exposing corporate capture; and
- transformation.

In 2011, Friends of the Earth International turns 40. Although we clearly have some major environmental and social issues to tackle in the coming decades, this report shows that we also have plenty of victories to celebrate. We look forward to moving forward into the next phase of our existence with you!

i will not dance to your beat

*I will not dance to your beat
If you call plantations forests
I will not sing with you
If you privatise my water
I will confront you with my fists
If climate change means death to me but business to you
I will expose your evil greed
If you don't leave crude oil in the soil
Coal in the hole and tar sands in the land
I will confront and denounce you
If you insist on carbon offsetting
and other do-nothing false solutions
I will make you see red
If you keep talking of REDD and push forest communities
away from their land
I will drag you to the Climate Tribunal
If you pile up ecological debt
& refuse to pay your climate debt
I will make you drink your own medicine
If you endorse genetically modified crops
And throw dust into the skies to mask the sun
I will not dance to your beat
Unless we walk the sustainable path
And accept real solutions & respect Mother Earth
Unless you do
I will not &
We will not dance to your beat.*

By Nnimmo Bassey, read at the inaugural ceremony of the World People's Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth in Cochabamba, Bolivia in April 2010.

about friends of the earth international

In June 1971, a small, dedicated and determined group of environmental activists from France, Sweden, the UK and the US met in Roslagen, Sweden, to support each other in tackling common environmental problems. This meeting was to be the first of many passionate intercultural exchanges of concerns and ideas over the next four decades: it resulted in the founding of Friends of the Earth International (FoEI), now an influential global federation with groups in 76 countries and over 2 million members and supporters around the world.

Though our groups are diverse and work in different social, cultural, economic and political cultures, we are also united. We share a passionate belief that a better world is possible and that we can help to bring it about. Friends of the Earth – internationally, nationally and locally – is powered by teams of committed, dedicated and courageous activists, working together to resist vested interests, mobilise opposition, and help transform the way we all live.

FoEI is highly decentralised and democratic, and we take participatory decision-making and national group autonomy very seriously. Member groups – all of whom have an equal say – determine both the day-to-day activities and long-term strategy of the federation. Given our bottom-up, equitable approach and the diversity of our members, decision-making can be a lengthy and sometimes complicated process. Our successes are hard won even in the best of circumstances, but some of our groups work in extremely challenging conditions: without reliable electricity, without paid staff, and with extremely limited resources. Some of our campaigners have been harassed – and some killed – for speaking out against the vested interests that work against people and the planet. But FoEI member groups' activists can at least count on their friends and allies around the world for support in their campaigns for the environment and for people.

We are very grateful to our 2010 funders:

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS TMF/ MFS)

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Matra)

Europe Aid (joint grant with IPS)

Evangelische Entwicklungsdienst (EED)

The Isvara Foundation

The C.S. Mott Foundation

Oxfam Novib Netherlands

The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation

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2010 Biannual General Meeting in Malaysia.

campaign highlights 2010

climate justice and energy

The FoEI Climate Justice and Energy Programme's overall objective is helping to build a diverse, effective and global movement for climate justice.



FoEI at the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, in Cochabamba, Bolivia, 2010.

As part of a wide movement including environment organisations, trade unions and churches, 50,000 people

marched through the streets of Berlin declaring that it's time to switch off nuclear power.

Nnimmo Bassey, Meena Raman and Evo Morales presenting the outcomes of the Cochabamba People's Climate Summit to the UN Secretary-General, New York, 2010.

cochabamba world people's conference a beacon of hope

In April 2010, FoEI campaigners from around the world joined more than 35,000 delegates from 140 countries at the unprecedented World People's Conference on Climate Change and on the Rights of Mother Earth, in Cochabamba, Bolivia. All key aspects of FoEI's position on climate finance were included in the resulting Agreement of the People. This text was submitted to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by Bolivia, and subsequently included in formal negotiating texts, although it was later rejected. However, Cochabamba was a unique precedent-setting occasion at which willing governments and social movements came together to create a better world, and set the stage for future successes. FoEI was also invited to be part of the delegation that joined Bolivian President Evo Morales to present the Cochabamba outcomes to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and the G77+China. Together with others, ATALC (Friends of the Earth Latin America and the Caribbean) also co-convoked the successful and well-attended Assembly of Social Movements during the Cochabamba summit.

mobilising for climate justice

Strategic planning and building resistance on climate change is a key priority for FoEI and 2010 was an important year in this respect. We collaborated with allies including La Via Campesina,

the World March of Women, Climate Justice Now!, Jubilee South, the Continental Social Alliance and many others.

Highlights included ATALC co-convoking the Assembly of Social Movements in Cochabamba, and the '1000 Cancun' call led by Via Campesina with support from FoEI and others. Together with La Via Campesina, FoEI also co-hosted the Peasant and Indigenous Camp in Cancun, and supported and participated in many other events including the South-South Summit on Climate Justice and Finance. In contrast to Cochabamba, the Copenhagen summit was marked by lockouts of civil society, detentions of climate activists and the use of force against non-violent protesters.

Young FoE Europe also mobilised young people from across Europe, who participated in a climate camp and anti-coal actions in Bonn, and a 100-strong gathering in Brussels, which created a strong and active presence there during the Cancun negotiations.

bonn, tianjin and cancun a trail of threats and false solutions

FoEI followed UNFCCC negotiations assiduously during 2010, championing the cause of climate justice and opposing the illegitimate Copenhagen Accord.

During the year, the UNFCCC's travelling circus pitched up in Bonn, Tianjin and Cancun, but made no headway as rich industrialised countries threatened to abandon their existing legal

commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. This stand off ultimately resulted in COP-16's 'Cancún Agreements' which could put the planet on track to catastrophic temperature increases of up to 5°C. Despite setting up a Green Climate Fund and recognising that current emission targets have to be scaled up, real substance to prevent catastrophic climate change is still missing.

Throughout the Cancun summit the 40-strong FoEI team was active both inside and outside the negotiations, mobilising, analysing, lobbying, and generating critical media coverage. 'Inside' activities included a side-event on climate finance, the launch of reports on REDD and climate finance, and a joint press conference with the Global Justice Ecology Project, La Via Campesina, Indigenous Environmental Network, and Bolivia's Pablo Salon. FoEI delegates addressed the COP-16 plenary, urging action to deliver the emissions cuts and adaptation finance needed to stop runaway climate chaos.

finance a crunch issue for climate change

Throughout 2010 FoEI carefully considered, tracked and challenged the development of various climate finance proposals. This was facilitated by the conclusion of a FoEI position rejecting all forms of carbon trading shortly before the Cochabamba summit.

Creating an effective alliance for a just climate finance regime continues to be a key priority for FoEI. Throughout 2010, FoEI promoted activities and actions to disseminate the policy positions of the federation and to establish joint efforts with other movements, organisations and social networks, including through the South-South Summit on Climate Justice and Finance in Cancun.

Rather than relying on private finance, climate finance solutions need to focus on developed countries meeting their obligations by generating public finance for adaptation and mitigation on a scale that truly matches the challenge, and ensuring that any new climate fund is built on fair foundations.

The new Green Climate Fund International, finally mandated in Cancun, is a definitive step in this direction. It has the potential to be structured in such a way that it ensures high levels of accountability and the participation of civil society. It could also enable developing countries to access funds directly without going through the multilateral development banks.

FoEI's new campaign on the dangers inherent in the proposal on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) provided consistent and informative analysis of inbuilt problems associated with the REDD approach, and helped to reframe the deforestation debate in terms of environmental justice and the rights of local communities and Indigenous Peoples.

the world bank and climate finance highlighting hypocrisy

FoEI is committed to highlighting the World Bank's hypocrisy on climate change, given its continuing investments in industries emitting high levels of carbon dioxide, and its failure to adopt climate and energy-related policies that contribute to poverty reduction.

In 2010 our efforts included participation in the Global Action Week against the World Bank in October. We also hosted a well-attended Cancun side event on climate funds, the role of the World Bank,

carbon markets, REDD, and financial support to large polluting enterprises. We challenged the World Bank's announcement of a multi-million dollar fund to promote the creation of carbon markets in developing countries, and participated in two highly visible public actions highlighting the Bank's role in climate finance. We joined with many others to launch a new international campaign to get 'The World Bank out of Climate'.

The new Green Climate Fund (GCF) names the World Bank as temporary trustee however. FoEI will continue to campaign against the Bank's permanent involvement in this Fund, and for the strict application of the Fund's social and environmental safeguards.

tar sands fuelling opposition

In 2010 FoEI worked hard to build awareness of the risks of tar sands development in developing countries, and to strengthen civil society's capacity to respond to this dangerous trend: the greenhouse gas emissions of converting tar sands into fuel is three to five times higher than for conventional oil. Together with others we focused attention on tar sands investments by Italian oil giant ENI and French oil multinational Total, and contributed to the filing of shareholder resolutions concerning BP's and Shell's involvement. We also organised the participation of affected communities at Shell and Total shareholder meetings. The companies have announced measures to reduce their impacts from tar sands.

national campaigns fighting fossil fuels, campaigning for climate justice

FoEI's member groups notched up critical successes in 2010, mobilising public opposition to ensure damaging fossil fuel activities are exposed or stopped, and calling for and getting real action at the local and national levels. For example:

- FoE Germany/BUND have so far succeeded in stopping 15 of 30 proposed new coal-fired power plants.
- FoE Nigeria and FoE Ghana organised exchange visits between Nigerian and Ghanaian oil and gas-bearing communities. As a result, Ghanaian communities where oil has recently been discovered have become better informed about oil extraction.
- FoE US mobilised more than 30,000 people, who convinced the US Senate to reject a resolution which sought to roll back the Clean Air Act's provisions on climate-destabilising pollution.
- FoE Argentina and others celebrated a new law to protect glaciers, which bans mining near glaciers and includes a requirement to take glaciers into account when developing climate change-related policies.
- FoE (England Wales and N Ireland) successfully took their climate change campaign to the local level, with more than 30 councils writing to the UK's Energy Secretary in support of local carbon budgets.

Many Friends of the Earth groups are also mobilising successfully against the climate damaging activities of specific companies such as Xstrata in Australia, Eskom in South Africa and Ayrshire Power in Scotland.

economic justice – resisting neoliberalism

The Economic Justice-Resisting Neoliberalism Programme's objective is to develop sustainable societies by building people's power and dismantling corporate power, stopping corporate-led neoliberalism and globalisation, and challenging the institutions and governments that promote unequal and unsustainable economic systems.



A meeting of the World Bank in Brussels was targeted by FoE France and other groups in May 2010, urging it to stop financing fossil fuel projects including the dirty coal business.

Friends of the Earth Europe's Worst Lobby Awards in Brussels, Belgium 2010.

combating poverty engaging communities, protecting livelihoods

In 2010, we continued our focus on combating poverty and protecting the environment, by safeguarding people's livelihoods and rights to resources, and promoting sustainable alternatives. We challenge the root causes of poverty, including the impacts that trade policies, multinational corporations, and international financial institutions have on communities' ability to determine their own paths towards sustainable development.

During the year we lobbied governments and intergovernmental organisations about the struggles of local people, and focused our efforts on bringing about changes in international trends and policies in line with our concepts and vision. We supported local activities, engaged southern groups in international processes and events, arranged community exchanges, and helped people to use existing legislation and legal tools.

We held a wide range of workshops and trainings that enabled civil society representatives to advocate at the international level, including on specific issues such as dams, cellulose production and climate finance. We also facilitated the participation of southern civil society representatives at shareholder meetings of Stora Enso, Shell, Royal Bank of Scotland and Total, and at numerous meetings with the European Commission, European parliamentarians, and the OECD. We successfully incorporated the interests of affected communities in EU policies to improve corporate accountability, and brought community issues into the OECD's process to revise its Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

We also continued to expose the impacts that free trade negotiations promoted by the EU have on natural resources and food sovereignty. In 2010 we held numerous events with indigenous communities about the proposed Association Agreement with Central America, and began work to create a parliamentary front across Central America to challenge the ratification process. We also organised public activities in Europe focusing on the EU's Association Agreements and the impacts of the EU's Global Europe strategy, including activities parallel to the EU-Latin American Summit.

Stopping the implementation of harmful projects at the national level also remains a key priority for FoEI and our member groups (as can be seen from the many success stories throughout this report).

shell court case takes shape

In 2010, the court case against Shell - being brought by FoE Netherlands/Milieudefensie and four Nigerians because of oil pollution in Nigeria – really got underway. The process focused on Shell's refusal to comply with a request to allow access to internal company documents, and other delaying tactics. Meanwhile FoEI and FoE groups continued to campaign on Shell's damaging activities. In May, Shell announced that it would invest US\$600 million dollars in reducing gas flaring, but the 26 gas flares to be extinguished still represent less than a quarter of the total numbers of flares burning in Nigeria. Shell was also eliminated from the Dow Jones Sustainable Index, due to its involvement in oil spills and oil pipe leakages in Nigeria, which is now acknowledged around the world following extensive exposure by FoE Nigeria, FoE Netherlands, FoEI, and others.

FoEI has also supported affected communities in the Niger Delta in their legal struggles in Nigerian courts. There are gas flare lawsuits ongoing against all major oil companies in the High Court in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. FoE Nigeria has been closely involved in developing the legal cases on gas flaring with affected communities and regularly distributes fact-sheets and newsletters, places ads in local newspapers and holds 'town hall' meetings in the affected communities to keep local people up to date with the legal work.

people's permanent tribunal exposing stora enso

The fourth People's Summit (Enlazando Alternativas IV) held in Madrid, May 2010, was supported by hundreds of organisations from Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, including Friends of the Earth. Member groups from Brazil and Uruguay co-presented the case against Stora Enso at the Permanent People's Tribunal, together with others organisations, and then visited Finland and Sweden: in both countries there was a packed agenda, with events focusing on tree plantations and monocultures. Cases on Union Fenosa, Holcim and Goldcorp were also presented to the tribunal.

icsid challenging the corporates' court

In Latin America and the Caribbean region, there is increasing concern about the role of the World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investments Disputes (ICSID), as transnational companies use it to challenge national laws and governments. Tobacco company Philip Morris, for example, is using ICSID to try and force Uruguay to modify its tough anti-smoking laws. FoE Uruguay has been working closely with the Uruguayan government throughout the case, and nominated Philip Morris as 'worst company of the year' in the annual Public Eye award, held in parallel with the World Economic Forum in Davos. Other ICSID cases include those of the Railroad Development Corporation, Iberdrola Energía S.A. and Teco Energy Inc., which are being monitored by FoE Guatemala, and a case involving Canadian-based Pacific Rim Corp in El Salvador. We have prioritised helping other organisations and movements to build awareness about ICSID.



eccj rights for people, rules for europe's transnationals

Corporate accountability has also been a key theme in Europe. FoE is one of the initiators and hosts the secretariat of the European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ)'s campaign 'Rights for People, Rules for Business', which highlights the impacts of EU business in non-European countries. Key outcomes in 2010 were the European Commission's proposal to study the gaps in human rights protection for citizens in developing countries, with respect to the negative impacts of European companies; a new EU policy to improve non-financial reporting by companies; and a new Communication on Corporate Social Responsibility, that will address most of the issues brought forward by FoE and ECCJ.

These developments signal a major change in the EU's attitude to corporate accountability.

finance building momentum for robin hood tax

In 2010 FoE Europe campaigned assiduously for a new financial transaction tax (FTT), which could raise hundreds of billions to tackle poverty and climate change. At the same time, it would contribute to greater stability of the financial system by reducing speculation. During the spring of 2010 the idea was gaining support at all levels of EU institutions, and over 50,000 people signed FoE Europe's petition; but countries such as Canada managed to convince others that taxing banks' business would be an imposition on poor countries. The campaign continues.

europa worst eu lobbyists

FoE Europe also organised the Worst EU Lobbying Award, where they exposed unethical lobbying in the financial and climate sectors, and helped persuade the European Commission to develop a new code of conduct forbidding Commissioners from lobbying their former department for a period of 18 months after their resignation. FoE also won two cases at the European Ombudsman, who ruled that the European Commission had not followed its own procedures and guidelines.



FoE Forum Against Agribusiness, El Salvador, May-June 2010.

The Sensuntepeque municipality in El Salvador expresses its opposition to mining.



Promoting the Robin Hood tax outside the European Council.

food sovereignty

People should be allowed to determine and control their own food systems. This form of agriculture also helps communities become more resilient to climate change. We support small scale peasant farmers resisting corporate interests and industrial agriculture. We help build bridges between people and their food, and between those who produce and those who consume food.



Friends of the Earth Europe campaigners dressed as cows at the European Commission calling for rainforest free food and farming.

In April 2010, more than 15,000 people joined a demonstration against GMOs organised by FoE Spain jointly with consumer and farmers groups..

Communities that FoEI's member groups work with in Africa, Latin America and Asia are facing greater food insecurity than ever before, as climate-related events are increasingly affecting crop yields, land-grabbing has risen sharply, and international policies are exacerbating rural-urban migration.

At the same time however, we believe that the global food sovereignty and climate justice movement is stronger than ever. One of our key priorities is to create the political spaces needed to foster its growth, and to highlight the crucial role that agro-ecological, local, family and peasant farming practices can play in resolving the food and climate crisis.

We focus on demystifying the dominant production paradigm led by agribusiness transnational corporations, exposing its impacts on people's sovereignty, and showing how it is increasingly leading to land-grabbing and other practices used by agribusiness which undermine communities' self-determination and resources.

We also remain steadfast in our refusal to swallow false solutions to the food crisis. In 2010 we helped other organisations and movements develop analyses and build awareness of these false solutions, at a range of events including in Cochabamba and Cancun.

joining forces internationally challenging agribusiness, promoting food sovereignty

We continue to foster links with our key strategic allies. In 2010, FoEI, the World March of Women (WMW) and La Via Campesina (LVC) came together in June, in El Salvador, for the Forum Against Agribusiness and for Food Sovereignty in Mesoamerica.

We also continued the fight for food sovereignty as a member of the editorial board and communications team of the 'Nyéléni Newsletter', a joint project of the organisations and movements that organised the International Forum on Food Sovereignty held in Mali in February 2007. We also continued our participation in the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty, focusing on livestock and on the Food and Agriculture Organization's process towards Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Lands and Natural Resources Tenure. In August, FoEI also co-organised three workshops during the Americas Social Forum in Paraguay.

argentina, honduras and nigeria **building local links**

Equally strong bonds are being forged at the national level. Notable collaborative efforts in 2010 included Argentina, where FoE Argentina and the Movimiento Nacional Campesino Indígena (MNCI)-La Vía Campesina Argentina collaborated throughout the year, hosting discussions, publishing articles, and broadcasting on food sovereignty issues. FoEI also supported the First National Indigenous Peasant Congress of MNCI-La Vía Campesina, attended by more than 5,000 individuals.

FoE Honduras/Madre Tierra was part of the Agrarian Platform launched in Honduras in June 2010 which proposed a 'Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law'. In November, in a high profile conference entitled 'The Politics of Hunger', FoE Nigeria/Environmental Rights Action and the Union of Small Medium Farmers Association (USMEFAN) presented the newly formed Nigerian Peoples' Food Sovereignty Coalition. Another important outcome came in the form of a promise from the Nigerian president to inform the government about the Nigerian peoples' aspirations with respect to food sovereignty.

gm0s **maize, mosquitoes and maintaining resistance**

Friends of the Earth continues to oppose the use of genetic modification. The biotech industry is clearly trying to force its agricultural 'solutions' on Africans: the World Bank and the US are busy helping African governments 'harmonise' laws to privatise land and open the door to the patenting of crops and tree varieties, and genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Groups such as FoE Nigeria/ERA have been working with media and farmers' organisations to provide training on GMOs, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), agro-ecological farming and food sovereignty.

During the year FoEI shared its analyses on the state of the biotech industry and false solutions, with universities, policymakers and social movements. We also participated in the International Seminar and Meeting on Anti-GMO campaigns in Rio de Janeiro in August. Additionally, we provided international support to the *Stop the Crop* cyberaction to keep Europe GMO-free, which gathered more than 37,000 letters calling for a moratorium on all GMO approvals. The action was developed in support of the 6th European Conference of GMO-Free Regions in Brussels and Ghent in September, which was co-organised by FoE Europe.

A range of environmental, farming and consumer organisations including FoE Spain celebrated the fact that the area of GM maize grown in Spain decreased for the second consecutive year. After many months of petitioning the government to release information concerning the whereabouts of GMO crops in Spain, FoE Spain forced the government's hand by resorting to EU law. The reaction from farmers, campaigners, media and GMO promoters has been heated and crops have been destroyed (by groups outside Friends of the Earth). In April 2010, more than 15,000 people joined a protest march in Madrid calling for 'Agriculture and Food Free from GMOs', co-organised by FoE Spain and others. They were supported by parallel actions staged by FoE groups in Hungary and Cyprus.

FoEI also supported the campaign by FoE Malaysia/Sahabat Alam Malaysia and other civil society organisations opposing the release of genetically modified mosquitoes, intended to control dengue fever (the first mosquitoes were released in December 2010).

learning about food sovereignty capacity building

Building communities' capacity on food sovereignty is a priority for FoEI. In 2010 we supported regional workshops on land-grabbing, agrofuels, biosafety and local agro-ecological experiences in Ghana, Nigeria, Paraguay, Brazil and El Salvador. We also facilitated the participation of southern campaigners in seminars and strategy meetings on popular education (Cuba), GMOs (Brazil), and building African social movements (Senegal). We supported local capacity-building workshops and produced local materials for popular education, including in workshops in Uruguay and Brazil.

creating food sovereignty promoting practical solutions

In October, FoEI voiced its concerns and demands at the Hague Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change, in support of fair and effective solutions to the agriculture and climate crisis. We called on the conference, hosted by a number of governments, the World Bank and the FAO, to champion a global transition to ecological agriculture, avoid questionable technological fixes, focus on enabling farmers to adapt to climate change, and ensure adequate public financing for agriculture. Many of these recommendations are already embodied in the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), reflecting broad public consultation.

We supported these calls with our project to map transformative initiatives around the world. By the end of 2010 we had mapped initiatives in Nigeria, Uganda, Indonesia, Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, United States, Guatemala and Switzerland.

FoEI also provides direct support to practical projects that bring food sovereignty to life. In 2010 this included FoE Uruguay's collaboration with other Uruguayan organisations to create a network of seed producers to rescue local seed varieties and promote organic production, and FoE Costa Rica/COECOceiba's new fair trade shop, La Troja, where people can find a range of foods produced by indigenous and peasant families.



FoE Hungary promotes sustainable living through local products and strengthening local communities.

agrofuels

FoEI informs citizens about the negative consequences of agrofuels production. We also campaign for financial institutions to stop supporting the agrofuels sector, and support local communities in defence of their livelihoods.



Farmer on a farm in the Moamba district, Mozambique.

Local Jatropha farmers in Mozambique.

Local campesino takes part in an action against soy monoculture in Bolivia.

In 2010 we co-coordinated a European tour, together with allies including the Global Forest Coalition, which focused on exposing the potential impacts that increasing the use of wood-based bioenergy is likely to have on forest and forest-dependent people worldwide. Three seminars were held, in London and the Hague, and at the European Parliament in Brussels.

We called on the EU to include indirect land use change and greenhouse gas effects in the 2011 update of its Renewable Energy Directive, and coordinated the publication of a multi-NGO report on indirect land use change, which generated direct responses from government ministers and the European Commission, and effectively shifted the terms of the debate. The Indonesian government also retracted its proposal to include oil palm plantations in its definition of forests.

focus on soya labelling faces global opposition

235 civil society groups from across the globe, including FoEI and Corporate Europe Observatory, warned that a proposed new label for 'responsible' soy from the Round Table for Responsible Soy (RTRS) could facilitate soy oil being used to meet the EU target for biofuels, despite evidence that soy biodiesel is worse for climate emissions than fossil fuels. The retrograde scheme would also label genetically modified (GM) soy as 'responsible'.

agrofuels lobby tour on impacts in latin america

With the support of FoE US and FoE Spain, Ricardo Navarro from FoE El Salvador travelled to Washington DC and Spain in May, specifically to lobby authorities about the realities of the social and environmental impacts of agrofuels expansion in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

the philippines victory for cagayan de oro communities

FoE Philippines/LRC-KsK and other environmental groups, rural communities and the Catholic Church celebrated the fact that Alsons Consolidated Resources, Inc. (ACR) postponed plans to build a bioethanol plant that would have damaged biodiversity and polluted the water courses of communities living in the upland areas of Cagayan de Oro.

mobilising against land grabbing

Governments and investors increasingly view the African continent as a source of agricultural land and natural resources for the rest of the world, and are 'grabbing' land to grow crops for food and fuel. Campaigners from FoE Europe and FoE Africa met in Accra, at a meeting hosted by FoE Nigeria/ERA, to develop a common strategy for stopping land grabbing for agrofuels, and a new Jatropha Africa Network (JAN) was launched. We also published a report for investors on the impacts of jatropha (which was published in January 2011).

We published a briefing on land-grabbing in August, featuring research conducted by FoE member organisations in Europe, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Togo, Swaziland and Mauritius. FoE exposed and denounced the World Bank's role in promoting large-scale land acquisitions by foreign investors in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The UN has previously shown that the best way to feed our population is through existing, peasant-based ecological agriculture. UK ministers have also asked the European Commission to review agrofuel targets.

forests and biodiversity

FoEI member groups work with local communities to preserve forests and uphold their rights to manage forest resources and secure sustainable livelihoods. We campaign against industrial large scale plantations, monoculture production and the commercialisation of forests and biodiversity.



FoEI People's Gathering in Penang, Malaysia, October 2010.

FoE Korea activists occupying a 6 metre high dam in protest of the Four Major Rivers Project, 2010.

Biodiversity Action as part of the Sustainability School 2010, Brazil.

Eucalyptus plantation in Uruguay.

international day against tree plantations focus on redd

In 2010, the Forests and Biodiversity programme was able to provide support for ongoing national campaigns to protect forests in Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, Norway, Sweden, Finland, France, Liberia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea, as well as assisting groups wanting to address forest carbon offset projects and policies (including Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD)), and forest law enforcement and certification schemes.

On 21 September, FoEI celebrated the international day against tree plantations with key allies including the World Rainforest Movement and Global Forest Coalition. FoEI groups took action around the world, but the main focus was in Brazil, where tree plantations are a major concern for local people and the environment. We co-released a declaration with key allies, and coordinated awareness-raising workshops and distributed materials, including the community testimony video 'Planta Acciones, No Plantaciones' (Plant Actions, Not Plantations) by FoE Colombia. We also mapped multinational corporations financing and implementing monoculture tree plantations across Latin America.

We restated our opposition to the UNFCCC position that tree plantations are part of the solution to the climate crisis. The UN REDD mechanism is particularly dangerous, because it could reward those engaged in logging and establishing large-scale plantations whilst ignoring countries and communities that have low deforestation rates and live sustainably.

We published a report on REDD, based on case studies from FoEI members in Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Liberia, Mexico, Nigeria and Paraguay. This demonstrates that although REDD may benefit some communities and biodiversity in certain specific areas, overall it is emerging as a mechanism that has the potential to exacerbate inequality, reaping huge rewards for corporate and other large investors but bringing considerably fewer benefits - or even serious disadvantages - to Indigenous Peoples and other forest-dependent communities.

focus on stora enso

In 2010, FoEI continued to roll out its campaign against Stora Enso with groups from ATALC and FoE Europe working closely with each other. Friends of the Earth groups from Brazil and Uruguay, together with La Via Campesina and CEPEDS from Brazil, presented the case against Stora Enso at the Permanent People's Tribunal, held alongside Enlazando Alternativas IV in Madrid in May. The groups then visited FoE Finland and FoE Sweden: in both countries there was a packed agenda, with events focusing on tree plantations and monocultures.

community rights campaigners and communities meet in malaysia

During 2010 FoEI reiterated its opposition to the commercialisation of life and associated market mechanisms many times. FoEI groups campaigning on biodiversity in countries around the world gathered together to strengthen their collaboration in Penang, in October. More than 100 representatives attended FoEI's People's Gathering on Forests, Biodiversity, Community Rights and Indigenous Peoples, organised by FoE Malaysia/Sahabat Alam Malaysia.

cbd in nagoya keeping market mechanisms off the agenda

After two and a half weeks of tortuous negotiations in Nagoya, the tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity finally agreed not to make references to risky market mechanisms such as the proposed Green Development Mechanism (GDM) in its final text. The GDM, favoured by developed countries, would have been modelled on the destructive Climate Development Mechanism (CDM), and would have created tradable biodiversity credits, making it possible to offset biodiversity and ecological loss instead of preventing it. This was a great victory for developing countries and civil society organisations including FoEI, although many other aspects of the CBD still promote the privatisation of biodiversity, which is the main issue underlying biopiracy.

malaysia defending native customary rights

In 2010 FoE Malaysia/Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) continued its support for affected communities, defending their native customary rights (NCR) through Malaysia's legal processes. One such case concerns the vast Bakun Hydro-Electric Dam on the Balui river. The case was first heard in the High Court in Kuching 2008, where the Plaintiffs lost purely on technical grounds. They appealed to the Court of Appeal but lost once again in 2010. Undeterred, they then submitted a request for the right to appeal to the Federal Court. The struggle continues.

indonesia/australia illegal trading and redd

Indonesian environmental and social justice groups including FoE Indonesia/WALHI asked Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard to close the door to illegal timber and forest products. FoE Australia complemented their efforts by hosting a national tour for three Indonesian environmental campaigners. They focused on promoting debate about Australia's approach to offsetting carbon emissions through conserving forests in Indonesia (through REDD) and met with parliamentarians and ministers.

korea stopping 4 rivers dam construction in rainy season

FoE Korea/Korean Federation of Environmental Movements (KFEM) staunchly opposes the so-called Four Major Rivers Restoration Project initiated by the Lee Myung-bak government. This project has nothing to do with restoration, its main feature is the construction of 20 new dams on the four largest rivers of Korea. In July, in an attempt to suspend construction, five FoE Korea activists accessed the dam building sites in the middle of the night, climbing the 20m high pillar of the Han River lock gate, and taking over the high-rise tower crane operation room at the Nakdong River. FoE Korea demanded that construction should be suspended - at the very least during the rainy season - and that the government should accept their proposal to set up a joint reviewing committee. The activists had to retreat from the crane after 19 days because of an approaching typhoon, but the action on the pillar lasted for 41 days. KFEM is still struggling to stop the project and to find ways to restore the damaged rivers.

cyprus stopping poachers in their tracks

In September, FoE Cyprus and the German-based Committee Against Bird Slaughter (CABS) launched a campaign against the poaching of migratory birds, which is rife on the island. They took a direct, practical approach, organising a bird protection camp and conducting several non-violent direct actions. Within a week they located and dismantled 934 limesticks, 11 mist nets and 9 electronic decoys. They also released dozens of protected birds and recorded multiple bird trapping activities and sites. As a result the responsible authorities carried out a wave of anti-poaching operations in the following two months, the first since Cyprus' accession to the EU in 2004.



October 2010: FoE Cyprus campaigners collect and dismantle limesticks in Larnaca district.

resisting mining, oil and gas

The Resisting Mining, Oil and Gas Programme supports the right of local communities to reject and resist extractive industry operations. It aims to end subsidies from publicly-funded institutions like the World Bank, and challenges the world's governments to redirect support towards equitable and sustainable economic alternatives.



FoEI Resisting Oil, Mining and Gas campaign meeting, 2010.

Shell executives faced questions from investors, environmental groups and Canadian First Nations representatives over its

involvement in tar sands, at the corporation's annual general meeting in The Hague, Netherlands, on 18 May 2010.

FoEI has a long history of campaigning on oil, gas and mining, supporting local communities around the world in their efforts to reject and resist extractive industry operations that threaten their health and livelihoods. Successes often come at great cost to communities and activists however. In November, on the 15th anniversary of the murder of Nigerian writer and activist Ken Saro-Wiwa, we joined with others in Nigeria, and other countries including South Africa, Mozambique, the Philippines, the Netherlands, Guatemala and Mexico to remember fallen mining activists around the world.

argentina no more mining near glaciers

Andean glaciers, critical 'solid water reservoirs', are melting because of climate change, and threatened by open-pit mining projects. But in September 2010, after intense campaigning by many organisations including FoE Argentina, a new law was finally passed, safeguarding all areas with frozen soils and prohibiting mining near glaciers.

costa rica celebrating national ban on mining

Costa Rica was the scene of a major success in 2010 when the campaign against the Crucitas gold mining project, supported by FoE Costa Rica, helped pave the way for a bill passed by parliament in November, which banned open pit metal mining throughout the country. The mining concession at Las Crucitas was also repealed due to strong opposition. Costa Rica is the first country in the Americas to say no to future open pit mines.

guatemala investigation of 'maya biosphere' oil extraction

FoE Guatemala worked together with FoE France to raise awareness of French multinational Perenco's oil exploitation project in Guatemala's Petén region, in a rainforest reserve known as the 'Maya Biosphere'. As a consequence, Guatemalan Congresswoman Anibal Garcia wrote a report in June 2010 which triggered an investigation into the government's new contract with the company and the potential environmental and social impacts caused by the new oil concession in Petén.

liberia commitment to address corruption

FoEI teamed up with FoE Liberia and the Global Action on Arcelor Mittal coalition to issue a number of recommendations regarding the company's environmental and social performance in Liberia. FoE also supported NGOs and communities in Liberia working to

improve the ArcelorMittal Community Development Fund. The President of Liberia, in a meeting with FoE Liberia, committed herself to taking steps on the issue of corruption and to ensuring better use of the Fund. FoE Europe and FoE Liberia also drafted an OECD complaint against ArcelorMittal (filed in January 2011).

philippines ringing in changes with new mining bill

FoE Philippines/LRC-KsK has worked with and actively supported indigenous peoples and rural communities suffering the impacts of mining for many years. Working collaboratively with others they helped to develop and promote a new Minerals Management Bill, which seeks to scrap the present Mining Act of 1995. The new bill, formally filed by a number of Representatives on 1 December 2010, seeks the conservation of non-renewable mineral resources for the benefit of both present and future generations.

el salvador pacific rim's image plummets

FoE El Salvador has consistently supported communities opposed to mining projects in northern El Salvador, and FoEI has provided financial resources and launched cyberactions to support the Cabañas Environmental Committee (CAC), whose members have been victims of violent repression. In 2009 President Tony Saca withdrew Pacific Rim's El Dorado gold mining permit, but Pacific Rim Corp responded by filing an investor suit at the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), under the framework of the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). They also initiated a legal case against seven environmental activists. These strategies have backfired, however, damaging the company's image in the country. The case continued throughout 2010 and into 2011.

holcim cementing opposition to damaging company

During 2010, FoEI supported FoE Guatemala/CEIBA, FoE Mexico/Otros Mundos and FoE Colombia/CENSAT, in their campaign against Swiss cement company Holcim. They published a report on Holcim's projects in Colombia, Mexico and Guatemala, and testified at the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal in Madrid. In 2010, the Bogotá authorities in Colombia decided to shut down Holcim's operations. FoE Guatemala also helped to facilitate community consultations with more than 600,000 people in Guatemala. 99.8% of them voted against mining and mega-projects. More than 12,000 indigenous people also met with the UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Rights.

communicating our messages

Friends of the Earth International's communications aim to provide a consistent and compelling account of the social and environmental challenges we collectively face, and the economic processes and corporate interests that drive them. We also use our communications tools to share information about the many alternative sustainable and practical solutions that exist, and as a means of helping to build a movement for socially just and sustainable development. Read on for an overview of some of our communications achievements in 2011.

media

We issued 42 press releases during the year, and particularly popular stories included the Right Livelihood Award (also known as the 'Alternative Nobel Prize') which was awarded to our chair Nnimmo Bassey; the UN climate talks; the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth in Cochabamba; the UN Biodiversity Summit in Nagoya; and more generally our work on Shell Nigeria and on biodiversity issues. We also organised media training, both for our campaigners and external media professionals, which helped to increase the media's understanding of our work.

website

Our website is our most important tool for telling members of the public about our programmes and our national and local work. In 2010 we continued to build our online library of interviews with member groups, with representatives from Palestine, Malawi, Nigeria and Denmark.

We also produced a further 44 videos (in English, Spanish and French) and 18 audio testimonies (in Spanish), which can be found on our website and on YouTube. They feature local people whose food sovereignty and sustainable livelihoods have been adversely affected by mining, climate change and deforestation. In 2010 our website included extensive coverage of the Cancun climate talks including reports, videos and blog entries. We also created a special site for remembering environmental heroes and martyrs (<http://remembersist.org/>).



FoEI at the People's Summit on Climate Change in Cochabamba, Bolivia, April 2010.

Young FoE Europe.

Our Angry Mermaid video on corporate lobbying, produced for the Copenhagen climate talks in 2009, continued to draw viewers in 2010: it has now been viewed over 270,000 times, making it our most popular video to date.

real world radio

Throughout 2010, FoEI's internet-based Real World Radio (RWR) broadcast in Spanish, English, French, Portuguese and Italian. RWR collected testimonies from communities affected by land grabbing, climate change, and other environmental injustices. They also covered important regional and international fora including the Cancun climate change summit (where they were also able to follow the work of the Bolivian delegation day-to-day). Additionally the radio broadcast live stories and interviews on the internet, which were then re-broadcast by community radios. Real World Radio had an average of 30,000 visitors per month throughout 2010, and over 60 community radio stations from Latin America, Spain and the US have broadcast its productions.

cyberactions

During 2010, we used cyberactions to call for donations to FoE Haiti after the earthquake, to push for a just climate agreement in Cancun, to demand the closure of two open pit mines in Latin America, to insist on an end to the harassment of indigenous peoples in various territories, to alert pension companies to the risks associated with tar sands, to oppose the construction of dams in South Korea, and to bring about rules that restrict former EU commissioners from becoming lobbyists. We also continued to circulate our bimonthly e-newsletter, 'Voices', in English, Spanish and French.

2010 photo competition

FoEI's 2010 photo competition, Acting in Solidarity and Building Movements for Change, attracted more than 700 photos from 46 countries around the world. For the first time we ran this competition in collaboration with La Via Campesina and the Movement of Victims Affected by Climate Change. The best photos were printed in our 2011 wall calendar. We use these images to illustrate the stories we collect from our member groups, and in our publications and reports.

reports and educational materials

Our campaigns continued to produce insightful and in-depth reports on key campaign issues. For an overview please visit: www.foei.org/en/resources/publications.

www.foei.org



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